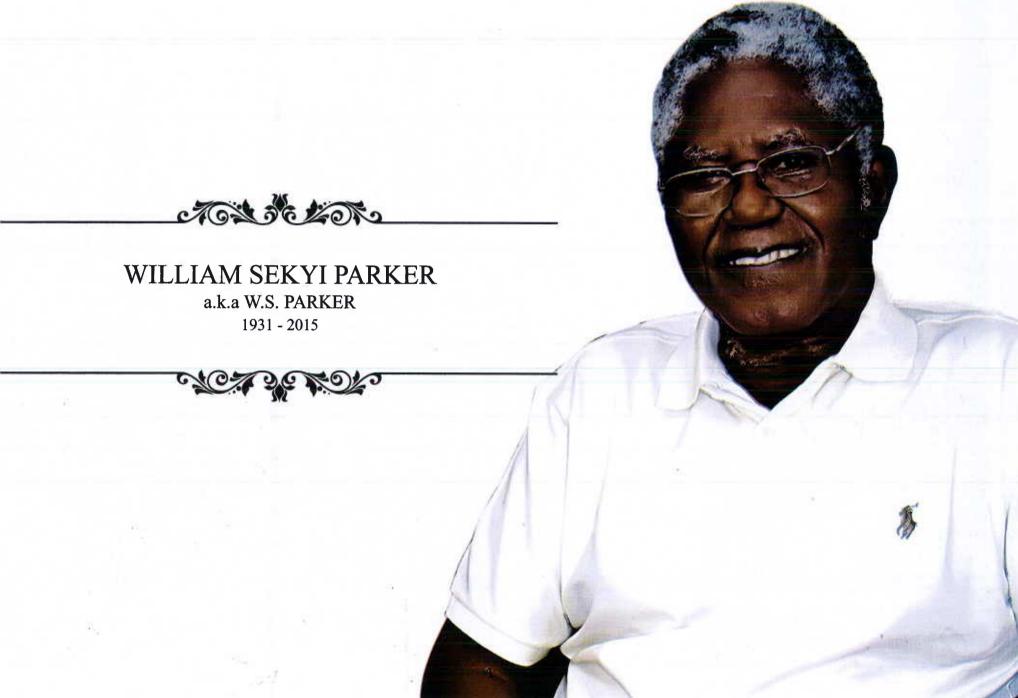


WILLIAM SEKYI PARKER

a k.a.W.S. PARKER



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The Burial And
Thanksgiving Service for the late

WILLIAM SEKYI
PARKER

(AKA W.S.PARKER)

17" October 2015

OFFICIATING MINISTERS

Rt. Rev. Ebenezer Abaka-Wilson-Bishop, Very Reverend John Buah Kwofie-Supt. Minister Rev. Helena Armah Nketsia- Calvary, Estates Rev. John Fletcher-Enyan Maim Rev. Father Benjamin Kwesi Kwarfo- All Souls Anglican Church

ORDER OF SERVICE

PART I: BURIAL SERVICE

- 1. Declaration of purpose
- 2. Hymn
- Praver
- 4. Hymn
- Biography /Tributes
 Hymn
- 7. Scripture Readings
 - a) Psalm 90
 - b) John 14:1-6,27
- 8. Hymn
- 9. Sermon10. Offertory
- 11. Thanksgiving
 - a) Hymn
 - b) Commendation
 - c) The Lord's Prayer
- 12. Announcement
- 13. Hymn
- 14. Benediction

M.H.B 411 C.A.N

M.H.B 830 C.A.N

M.H.B.427 C.A.N

M.H.B 828 C.A.N

M.H.B 896 C.A.N

M.H.B 528 C.AN

PART II: AT THE GRAVE SIDE

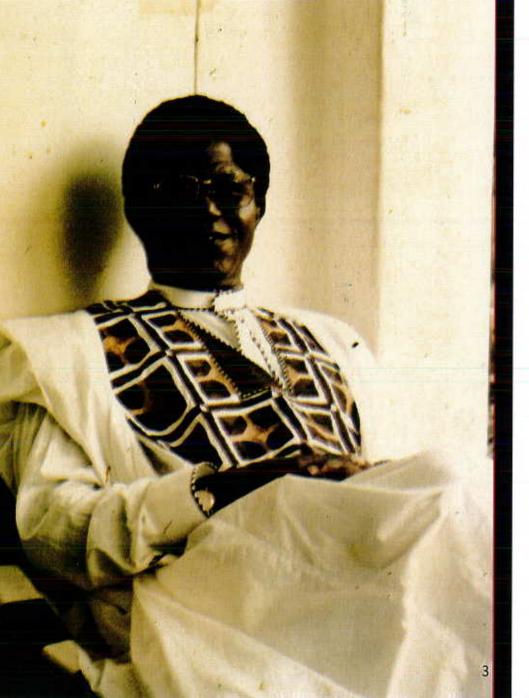
1. Hymn

H.M.B 615 C.A.N

- 2. Prayer
- 3. Committal/Prayer
- 4. Vote of Thanks
- 5. Hymn

- M.H.B.
- C.A.N 324

6. Benediction



BIOGRAPHY

oday we are gathered here to celebrate a life well-lived. We are here to bid farewell to William Sekyi Parker, an illustrious son of Ghana. We are gathered here to thank God for the life of Uncle Willie.

The late William Sekyi Parker aka WS, was born on 20th July 1931 in Saltpond, the capital of the Mfantseman Municipal District in the Central Region. He was the second of six children born to Mr. Thomas William Parker and Madam Mary Acquah (aka Aunt Kakra, Ekua Afrakoma) of the Pakasedo Nsona Royal House. He started his education at the Saltpond Methodist School, where he met his lifelong friend Mr. Ebo Crentsil. He moved on to the Sekondi Anglican School when he was sent to live with his senior sister Charity, who was a teacher.

He later continued to Dunkwa-on-Offin Anglican school after he was sent to stay with his senior brother T. C. Parker, who was also a teacher. It is likely that this is where he developed his love for studying. He subsequently returned to Mankessim, where he prepared to go to Secondary School.

He was initially admitted at Adisadel College, and during his first term, he was offered a place at Achimota School.

Young William entered Achimota School in 1946, where he obtained his Cambridge Higher School Certificate with distinction. He completed in 1951, having become the Senior Prefect. William taught at Achimota School briefly after he completed sixth form. He formed many lifelong alliances here. He later became a member of the Board of Governors of Achimota School. At the time of his passing, he was the president of the 1949 year group of the Old Achimotan Association.

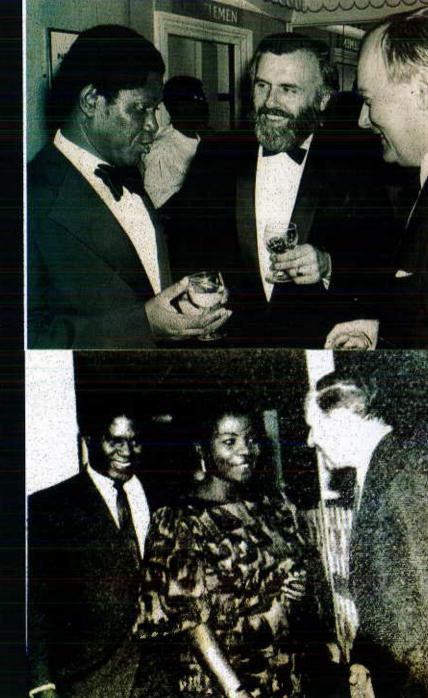
Mr. William Parker continued to the Loughborough Technological University and the London University, United Kingdom between 1953-1957, earning the DLC Mechanical Engineering and a Bachelors' Degree First Class (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering.

W.S. joined Shell International Petroleum Company in 1957, with duty tours with Shell Haven, United Kingdom, Stanlow Refineries and Asphalt Plant in Denmark.

Between 1957 and 1958, he was on a duty tour in Nigeria, returning to Ghana in 1958. He worked in various capacities in the company, both in Ghana and outside, eventually becoming the Operations Manager in 1966.

He assumed responsibility as the first Black Managing Director and Board Chairman of Shell Ghana Ltd in 1975, and retired after 13 years of meritorious service in that position in 1988.

During this period, Mr. Parker served as Chairman of University Council at the Kwame Nrumah University of Science and Technology (then University of Science and Technology), member of Board of Governors of Achimota Secondary School, Board Chairman of State Gold Mining Corporation and Board member of Ghana National Petroleum Corporation to name a few.









His passion for excellence was recognized by the Government of Ghana, and he was appointed Chief Executive and Board Chairman of the Tema Oil Refinery (then GHAIP) from 1988 till the year 2000. He retired from public life in 2000, continuing however to offer consultative advice on varied subjects to many colleagues, contemporaries and subordinates, with most of whom he maintained a cordial relationship till his death.

William Sekyi Parker passed away peacefully in his sleep at dawn on Monday 24th August 2015.

He is survived by his wife Esther and his children Thomas, Louisa, Wilhelmina and Solomon.

Though we are saddened by the passing of our father, husband, brother, uncle, mentor and friend, we give Glory to God for a life well lived. It is

not for us to question the Will of God. We are consoled however, by the assurance that W.S. is resting peacefully in the arms of his Maker, and by the certainty that we will surely meet again.

We are comforted by the scripture of 1 Thessalonians 4:13

"Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of Mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him."

W.S., REST IN PERFECT PEACE.



TRIBUTE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA

t is an honor and privilege to pay tribute today to a very special person. William Sekyi Parker was remarkable in so many ways. He lived his life to the full and touched so many people during his time here with us. We all have different memories that we will always carry with us memories that defined WS Parker; memories that we will always hold dear.

W.S. Parker played many valued and meaningful roles in his life. First and foremost I see W.S. Parker, the family man. He loved his family unequivocally and selflessly. He was a devoted family man.

W.S. Parker was a man defiant and the champion of others. He lived a principled life underpinned by a strong sense of right and wrong. W.S. Parker was never a man to step back from a challenge; to let something wrong stand unchallenged. W.S. Parker cared enough to act- to take a stand. He shared his expertise with all his colleagues, he worked hard and consistently and he remained a student of life. He never stopped learning. He never sat back and became complacent. He led by example and

he mentored many.

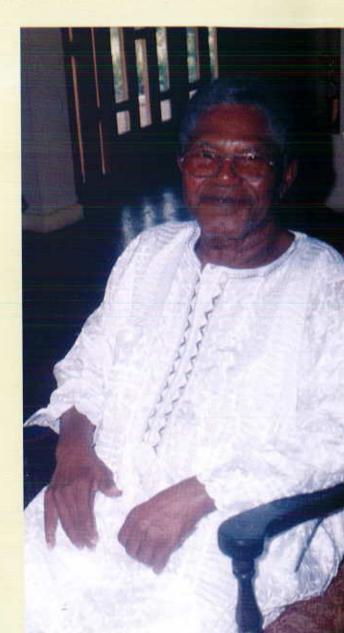
In his professional life both in private business and his service to the State, W.S. Parker dedicated his life to hard work and an unflinching dedication guided his actions, words and deeds. He strove always to be the best he could be-family man, colleague, friend and champion to others.

It is very hard to say goodbye and we don't want to, but we need to remember that he touched so many people's lives, so positively. He leaves an amazing legacy behind. W.S. Parker, we miss you- but we remember you fondly- always!

On Behalf of the Government of The Republic of Ghana

Hon. Kwabena Donkor (MP, Prue East) Minister of Power

It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived." — George S. Patton, Jr.





TRIBUTE FROM THE WIDOW

n everything we should give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I put my hope and trust in God to give me strength to carry on, and face each day.

Kwesi, you have been my close companion ever since we met. It has been over half a century and yet it seems too soon to part company. The Akan describe marriage so aptly. "Aware..."

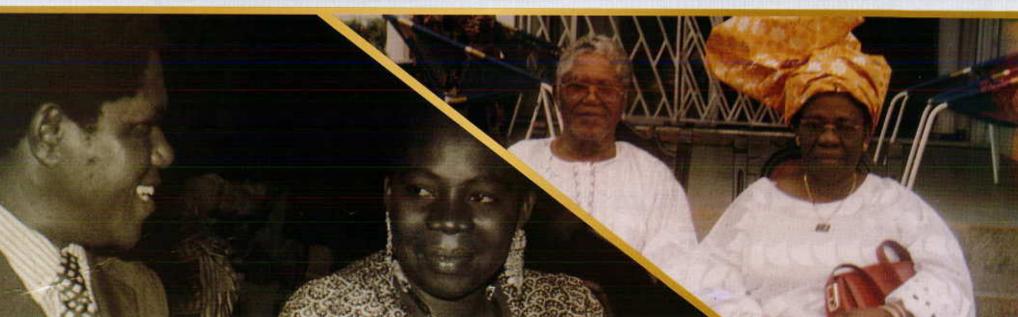
This details a long sojourn with a partner, through good, bad, tough and sad times to name just a few. By the Grace of the Almighty, we have shared many fruitful years' together, building a life and supporting each other through the many scenes that we have been presented with.

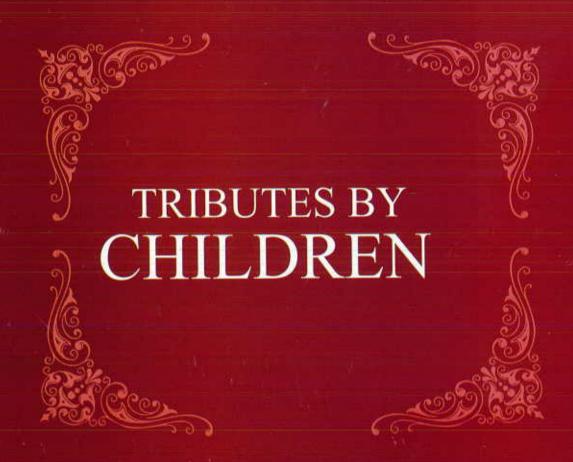
The Good Lord granted us our beautiful children and guided us in raising them. He has steered our path through various challenges and situations. By His Grace, we have beautiful grandchildren. Through thick and thin, we have grown old together. I would have wished that you would still be here, but God's plans are not ours. He knows best.

The bible says in 1st Thessalonians 5:18, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." I give thanks to God for your life. Yours was a life well lived.

I will always love you and cherish your memory.

Ki Olorun Olodumare, Baba Olore dari ese re ji e. Ki ogbae si owo otun re Amin ati Amin. So ire o Loruko Jesu. Alaba





TRIBUTE TO MY FATHER

ere lies our Father, cold but yet warm in the memory of the care and love that a true father bestows on his children.

In the midst of the grief that I feel that for a life that was ended with so much more to offer to us and to humanity I am tempted to give in to the agony of sadness...

But no! I remember the lessons that he taught his children, to believe that there is always a solution to every problem, that can be solved by diligent and honest labor, and I receive the solution that he offers to me as I stand before him now...

I am triumphant that he has fully played his part not only to his children but to many others who have become what they are through the guidance of our daddy.

W.S. was the epitome of discipline, honesty and integrity, and we shall be eternally grateful for these values that he inculcated in us, and which have proven so powerful in making us who we are today.

His generosity and concern for our welfare is still fresh in my mind, and no

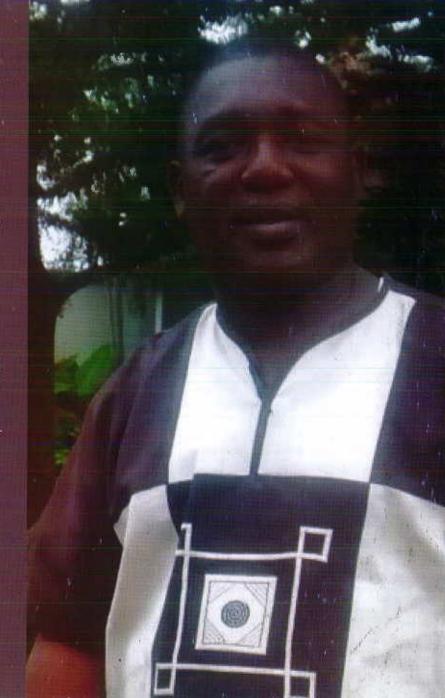
matter your age, W.S was ready to listen and help any way he could. We wish you could have stayed longer for us to enjoy many more years with you, and to savor your wise counsel, love, care and understanding but alas....the Good Lord has beckoned you to higher service.

What can we say? You have fought a good fight, and stood tall in the gallery of men, a source of wisdom and pride for us, your children, and we shall forever carry on your good works with your memory as our standard.

Upright and Just, Sincere, pure in heart

and mind, a loving memory he left behind.

The comforting voice we loved is still....
The big gun is silent......
You taught us to be strong and disciplined whenever the odds were against us... but also to know when the time for change has come....
Poppy.... Poppy!
Rest In Perfect Peace



TRIBUTE TO MY FATHER

'm sitting at the dining table, listening to the sounds of the day coming to life, leaves rustling gently in the dawn breeze, distant cock plaintively pleading for daybreak.

I'm supposed to be writing a tribute to my dad.

I cannot even begin to process this. Suddenly, I am paralyzed by grief, a sudden, gut wrenching twist, deep deep in my being. For a second, it is almost unbearable. Daddy is gone.

I am calm again, equilibrium restored. Strange, really. I can contemplate and imagine the old boy as if he were sitting opposite me, across the large oval dining table as he has done so many times before, getting ready to launch into an amusing anecdote about his childhood in Saltpond, Takoradi and later Mankessim, as senior prefect in Achimota School, student in Loughborough University, Managing Director of Shell or as a new father, nervously bathing his baby son or daughter.

I'm smiling now, even laughing a little at the complex, difficult, intelligent but loving individual William Sekyi Parker was. I look like him. Right down to the thick, bushy hair and cleft chin. It is well. My siblings and I are the sum of his efforts, failures, triumphs and successes. His DNA is firmly imprinted on and in us. He lives on in us. Nature and nurture.

WS, yours was a life well lived. Uncle Willie, Da yie.]Nyame m'fa wo nsie.

Afrakoma



HE IS RESTING IN PEACE

hat an honour to call you daddy!
What a joy to bear your name!" Esi
Sekyiwa se Nyame Nyhira wo! Me
papa Kwesi Sekyi; Ay3 adze! Wo ba Esi se
mbo!"

Mr. William Kwesi Sekyi Parker is my father. I bear his name- Wilhelmina Esi Sekyiwa Parker...and I am proud to be a part of WS' progeny- your daughter I hail your LIFE in triumph! MBO!

Dada, you and I share lots in common... both natural "southpaws" ("lefties"-left handed); bearing the same initials -W.S. P; both with a taste for the whimsical tinged with an upfront teasing honest and sometimes irreverent sense of justice ...tempered with a well-meaning touch of realism which may often be misconstrued as "toughness"

To all, I proclaim today- I am proud to bear his DNA, his name and his faith...for any comparison or similarity to my dad is an honor...for he was an anointed man...one who was an extraordinary, decent, powerful, brilliant, blessed, uncompromisingly HONEST and beautiful human being graced by Christ



who wore his many "firsts" with humility....and survived in a way that is a triumph to the faith we profess... Our Christian faith

I live with pride for having been your baby WS...I love the strong faith I have that tells me you are near; as always in my heart, my spirit and my strength....I lift the name you bequeathed us, your life to INSPIRE AND STRENGTHEN, your prayerful ways are our legacy; you are yet with us, in us and by us.

Please dwell in peace in heaven, dear daddy. Your baby girl loves you; my hero, my father. Your life and the honour of your passing a victory; a testament to our faith.

"So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

1 Corinthians 15:51

God speed daddy...



TRIBUTE TO DAD

Dear Dad, You have truly been a strong influence in my Life From the Days when I would sit next to you in the passenger seat of our car And tell you that I wanted you to buy me every car that I saw Not doubting that you could buy any car I desired From my days of adolescence When we had the tiffs of the Youth and the Elder Progressing into my maturity and manhood In which you still played a strong role in my Life Now the time has come for you to meet The Lord But you leave an indelible mark with all of us A mark of brilliance and the strong personality that you possessed God Bless you Dad! God keep you in His Bosom We love you, And you will forever live in our Hearts Love, Your Son, Nana Agyei







JULIA

My Grandfather was more than just my Grandpa.

He was a leader, strong and capable, able to overcome incredible challenges and courageous.

An outstanding son, a loving and compassionate father to uncle and aunties I have come to love dearly, a caring husband, loving brother, and very importantly, he was and forever will be the model of an all-round amazing man.

The great soul I speak of has not perished with his body. Grandpa's soul will forever be upheld in Heaven. He will watch over each and every one of us. He was, and is, by far the coolest Grandfather we could ever have had.

I hope that one day I will grow up and also live such an amazing life.

MAAME ESI

Our grandfather was a wonderful and caring man. He was disciplined and always wanted us to do the right thing. But he cared about us very deeply and we are happy for him for he has lived an exemplary and fruitful life ,and now he continues to have eternal life with our Lord and savior in Heaven.

We will forever cherish everything he has taught us even more now that our Heavenly Father has called him forth. He always put joy in our hearts and taught us great things that have really helped all of us to be the best we can be.

We are all glad that he has given us great memories to remember, but sadly we cannot have more today but we will always hold on

to the wisdom he has imparted to us, always try to apply all his lessons in what we do and we shall try to achieve the goals he has set for us this day, till we also leave this world, but until we meet again we will always keep him in our hearts.

Rest Easy With the Lord Grandpa. We will always love you.

THOMAS JUNIOR

Our grandfather was a very respectful, kind, honest, peaceful and caring person. Every moment we spent with him was full of happiness. He always advised us to do good and learn hard to help us succeed in life. He was always there to praise us for our efforts in whatever we tried and that always helped us aspire to great things in school and in life.

He always remembered every single person's birthday, and always comforted us when we felt sad, and anytime that he saw us he gave us such warm hugs that we did not feel like going home.

It is so sad that we shall miss him forever, and I pray that God will welcome him to His Kingdom where he will rest in peace.

Grandpa, We will always remember you!

Amen.

NANA KWAME EDUSEL

My Grandpa W S Parker was one of the greatest men I have ever known. Sure, he was pretty set in his ways, but we really loved him anyway. I'll never forget how he would come downstairs and sit on the exact same chair every single day. I always wanted to ask him why. Sadly, I'll never get to ask him now. You could literally set your watch by Grandpa's daily schedule.

Oh Grandpa, your passing has come as a great shock to the family. It has left a huge void in our lives. It makes me sad when I realise we won't hear your walking stick tap tapping as you come downstairs and that you will never ask us many many questions about everything.

Rest in Peace, Grandpa. We will never forget you.

SADE

The sun will rise as the day begins, And when it is over it will set, For its' work is done.

Grandpa, you may be gone from this earth, but you continue to live on in our hearts and minds. The past seventeen years of my life have been amazing partly because you were there with me. You saw my first steps and heard my first words. You showed your grandchildren immeasurable love. You always spent time with us even if you were busy.

A well respected man by your peers and subordinates, a family man with a big heart. We thank you for the values of sacrifice, kindness, courage and perseverance you instilled in us.

Grandpa, we will never forget. We continue to thank the Lord God for all He has done for us through you and for all He did for you.

My Grandpa was a man who was Blessed. A selfless man with a heart of gold who helped others and always showed care. Others may try to be like him, but there will never be another William Sekyi Parker. May you continue to rest in the bosom of the Lord till we meet again.

We will always love you. Rest in perfect peace.

YAABA

When I think about grandpa, the first thing that comes to mind is his intelligence, and his aptitude for mathematics. When I was in Junior High School, mathematics and electronics were all but Greek to me. I hated both subjects, and this bothered Grandpa because it was in technical subjects like this that he really excelled.

On several occasions, he would call me to come for lessons from him. I used to live in fear of this. It was like being showed how to live righteously by God himself!

As you can probably imagine, these lessons did not go as well as he would have liked, because he was so smart, and therefore, could really not understand

why I found these subjects so difficult.

When I was even younger, I loved visiting grandpa at his office in TOR. There was always a chilled bottle of coke waiting for me, and his then secretary, Auntie Matilda and I, became firm friends. I especially loved the food he would bring back home from the refinery. It was delicious!

One question I probably asked him a thousand times was why there was always flame at the top of one of the towers. He promptly answered each time, but unfortunately, I've forgotten the answer. I wish he were still around, so that I could ask him one more time.

I will always be proud of my grandpa. I'm grateful to God for giving him to us for so long. I know that he's resting peacefully in the Lord, and that we will see him again one day.

PAIGE

My grandfather was a very honourable and noble man, whose legacy will continue to live on even though he is gone. He was loved and will be missed.

God has gained an amazing angel. I love you, grandpa. Rest in peace.



TRIBUTE TO A DEAR BROTHER FROM NANA ARABA OTUA II, ALSO KNOWN AS MRS. WINIFRED IDDRISSU

o words can express how it feels to lose my dear brother Willie.

He had a long, prosperous and fulfilling life. At the ripe old age of 84, William Sekvi Parker passed away peacefully in his sleep.

We had a very strict father and a kind and gentle mother. As the eldest son, my brother Willie endured most of our father's discipline, I have a very vivid memory of my father giving my brother a few hard knocks on the head with the ring he wore on his right hand. I tell you, it put the fear of God in all of us.

Nonetheless my brother's determination to succeed had no limit. It was overpowering and infectious and I definitely caught the bug, He passed every subject with flying colors, got into Adisadel College, then Achimota and London University where he graduated with an Honours degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Brother Willie continued to excel at everything he did. It made me work harder, but to be honest, he was a hard act to follow. As the youngest sibling everyone treated me like a child and my brother Willie saw me as his baby sister. He wouldn't let me speak my mind because he believed he knew best. And much as I hate to admit it, everything he said made sense. Even in my seventies, he never stopped treating me like his baby sister. And I miss my dear big brother!

I will never forget how proud he made our parents and the entire family when he graduated from the University. I was 14 years old at the time and singing with the choir when I heard the news. Unable to contain my excitement, I ran home, screaming my head off. It was a jubilant occasion, not just for my family but the whole of Saltpond and the surrounding villages. In those days, obtaining a degree from a British University was a big deal, so my brother's achievement raised the family's profile to celebrity status. But he didn't stop there. He worked through the ranks at Shell Ghana Ltd where he was appointed Managing Director and subsequently Chief Executive and Board Chairman of the Tema Oil Refinery. I basked in my brother's glory and popularity and would always consult him about important issues. He taught me that with hard

work and determination nothing is impossible.

For those of us who knew him since childhood, he could be incredibly stubborn. We still loved, cherished and looked up to him. We miss him terribly!

William Sekyi Parker was the boy who tested his limits, the brother who excelled in all he put his mind to, the loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle, former boss and dear friend.

Even though we mourn a truly great man, I know my brother Willie would want to be remembered as he lived, a man who strove for excellence and achieved it. So let's give thanks for his life, a life well lived.

Brother, may your soul rest in peace!



FAMILY TRIBUTE TO UNCLE WILLIE

he Mankessim Pakasedo Nsona Royal Family would like to thank you all for coming to help us celebrate the life of Ebusua Baatan Uncle Kwesi Willie (W.S. Parker).

Today is a "bitter-sweet" occasion. We will miss the warm fellowship and all the fun times we had with Uncle Willie. But, being a child of God, he is in heaven with God. For those that belong to The Lord, the Word of God says we are absent from the body and present with The Lord. (2nd Corinthians 5:8).

Uncle Willie's Wisdom, Brilliance, Leadership qualities and unifying skills

can be simply characterized in a few words;

Integrity

Uncle Willie was renowned both within and outside his family as a man of unquestionable integrity. He was extremely disciplined, and never took any person or for that matter anything for granted. Straight forwardness was his trademark. You would not get him to knowingly deviate from doing what was right. He was extremely disciplined and a consensus builder.





Caring and Loving

Our Uncle was caring and loving. He was a man that loved his family dearly and sacrificed for his family. He was a great family man, and in every conversation never failed to ask about the health and welfare of one's spouse, children and other family members first before discussing any other topic. He made himself very approachable and available, and helped many family members in need with advice and financial assistance where

necessary. He was also devoted to his immediate family.

Uncle Willie did a lot for our family behind the scenes even in the early years. Some of his nephews lived with him in Takoradi in order to obtain elementary education. He frequently sent medical doctors to examine family members such as Nana Aduku III, Aunt Esi and other older relations when there was a need. In fact, you didn't have to be a family member for Uncle Willie to give a helping hand.



Peace, Equity & Fairness

Uncle Willie was so peaceful that he used his wisdom and leadership skills to resolve even controversial problems and conflicts wherever he was, at work, at home, at family meetings, on the street or anywhere else. He always made sure family members treated each other with fairness and respect, and always contributed resources equally among themselves for family projects.

Leadership

After the death of our Uncle Kwaw Sekyi-Cann about ten (10) years ago, some thought we were destined to experience a leadership vacuum, only to see the emergence of Uncle Willie as a real focal point for the family in every way. Uncle Willie's leadership skills were extraordinary, and he extended his Public service and Oil Industry leadership to Mankessim Pakasedo Nsona Royal family, which were his roots. He consistently led, inspired, and managed to bring the entire family together as one with a sense of unity and inclusion for all members.

Uncle Willie, as our Ebusua Baatan, spearheaded all family activities and was a real focal point for the family in every way.

Uncle, we are proud of you. We salute you with the following Scripture:

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:" 2 Timothy 4:7

Your wisdom, counsel, leadership and personality will be sorely missed as Pakasedo tries to fill the void you left behind.

REST IN PEACE.



NEPHEWS AND NIECES TRIBUTES

IDDRISU BROTHERS AND SISTERS

ncle Willie became the rock of the family after he took over from his predecessor as head of the family.

With his guidance and support, the family stayed united even in times of crises. He instilled moral values in all of us- education, discipline, had work and self-respect.

Now that he is gone we truly feel his loss and give thanks to the Almighty for his life.

May his soul rest in peace.

MRS. JOYCE BENSAH

ncle, on our visit to your house a few weeks ago, I did not hear you call out my name asking us to come upstairs. It felt very strange that you did not appear at all. We sat downstairs half-expecting that you would come down the stairs. Instead, it was Auntie Esther, clad in black, who emerged. I still feel inclined, occasionally, to call you on the phone and then I remember...

I could not bring myself to write a tribute to you, Uncle Willie; not only because of my inability to string the appropriate words together but especially because I consider my memories of you private and inestimable.

Uncle Willie! Hmmm. Where do I start? Nowhere, really, as you have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember.

Your sturdiness and determination made it impossible for me to contemplate your passing so soon without as much as a whimper. You have pulled a very fast one on us all. Not you too, Uncle Willie, because we knew you wouldn't allow yourself to be taken by surprise. I always believed you were going to live forever. You WILL, in our hearts. You will be outlived by your accomplishments and the love and care, which, just like your mother, Maame Afrakoma of blessed memory, you have shown so many people.

In a bid to try to bring you back to life, please permit me to be a little girl once again.

I remember the memorable and lovely times I spent with you at Kpehe alongside Kweku, Aunt Ama Komfo and Esi Kwenua, God rest their souls, or at Labone with you, Auntie Esther and your family.

What appealed to me most was your sense of loyalty to the family, especially your mother, Maame Afrakoma, a.k.a Aunt Kakra. You showed her so much affection, which is one of your endearing qualities. As a child, I

wondered how you always managed to make yourself available for everyone, what with your extremely busy schedule.

I remember with fondness a trip with you and your family to Akosombo, with two other cousins. Auntie Esther was with you in the front and occasionally turned around to ask us if we were hungry or thirsty, and then she would give out cream crackers and cheese. Your station notwithstanding, you were humble and never ostentatious but, mentally, you were as sharp as a razor blade.

I vividly envision you playing with Kow Panyin and Afrakoma on the carpet of your living room in your house at Nungua Estate. Whenever possible, you also gave them a bath to help Auntie out. You were such a caring family man and husband.

When the Goil filling station disaster happened, we talked and you mentioned how you had tried calling everyone to make sure the family entire was safe, and this was only last June. You were such a caring man, for even while recovering from an illness, you could not help but care for the family.

Such was Uncle Willie!

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR. W.S. PARKER BY THE BOARD, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF VIVO ENERGY GHANA LIMITED

ivo Energy Ghana Limited was deeply saddened on receiving the news of the passing of Mr. W.S. Parker.

The late W.S. Parker's association with Vivo Energy Ghana Limited dates all the way back to 1957 when he was first appointed Bitumen Plant Supervisor in Takoradi for Shell Ghana Limited (now Vivo Energy Ghana Limited). His dedication and hard work got him promoted to Bitumen Depot Manager. In 1962 Mr. W.S. Parker was appointed as the Supplies and Distribution Manager, a position he held till 1964, after which he was attached to Shell International Petroleum Co. to further develop his management expertise in Organization and Methods Planning from 1964-1965.

"Willie Parker", or "W.S.", as he was affectionately known, consistently pursued excellence in delivery in such a disciplined and focused manner that it was no surprise when he was made the Operations Manager in 1966, ascending to the position of Marketing Manager in 1967 and ultimately earned the highest accolade by becoming the first African Managing Director and Board Chairman of Shell Ghana limited in 1975, a position which he held with honor and integrity till 1988.

During his thirty year tenure in various positions which ultimately saw him as the Managing Director, W.S Parker was a kind, caring and generous leader who had the welfare of all Shell Employees at heart. His leadership style was exemplary

and one that was motivational. He consistently encouraged staff to strive to become the best they could become, and actively developed local talent to ensure that Ghanaians were able to ascend to management positions whenever possible. Despite being uncompromisingly frank and honest, he showed affection and unfailing courtesy to his subordinates, colleagues and all who came into contact with him.

Willie Parker moved out of direct public and National Service after his retirement from Tema Oil Refinery, but continued serving Mother Ghana in his long-established tradition by coaching, mentoring and advising many leaders and technocrats.

The Management and Staff of Vivo Energy Ghana Ltd. share the pain of the loss of Mr. W.S. Parker and extends their deepest condolences to his wife, children and the entire family. We thank God for his life of service to the company, country and humanity. Although the departure of Mr. W.S. Parker is an irreparable loss we can take comfort in the words of Apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-14

"But I do not want to be ignorant, brethren concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who do not have hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus."



TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR. W.S. PARKER- FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF TEMA OIL REFINERY (TOR) LIMITED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

"It is hard to eulogize any man— to capture in words not just the facts and the dates that make a life, but the essential truth of a person—their private joys and sorrows; the quiet moments and unique qualities that illuminate someone's soul. How much harder to do so for a giant of history" Barack Obama

The Visionary

It is indeed difficult to eulogize the late Mr. W.S Parker just with dates, facts and words.

The story of the petroleum industry would be incomplete without capturing the immense role played by Mr. W.S Parker. W.S was considered a visionary, who dedicated his professional life to excellence in the industry and specifically to Tema Oil Refinery (TOR) Limited. The Board of Directors, Management and staff have lost a father, friend, colleague, exceptional leader, mentor and luminary.

W.S Parker joined Tema Oil Refinery originally Ghanaian-Italian Petroleum Company (GHAIP) Ltd in 1988 after his voluntary retirement from Shell Ghana Limited, having spent 35 years with Shell Ghana Ltd., 13 years of which he was Managing Director.

Prior to his appointment as Managing Director of TOR by President J.J. Rawlings, W.S was the Board Chairman of the company bringing his extensive experience and background in the Oil Industry to bear on the operations of the refinery. He was enthused about the appointment because of the opportunity to serve his country and share his experiences gained with working with expatriates.

He believed that the "Ghanaian" was capable of managing their affairs. This he did so excellently by loyally serving TOR as its Chief Executive for 12 years having made significant improvements in the operation and modernization of the company.

The Turnaround

TOR like any other company had its challenges, but W.S had a vision for the company. In October 1986 in accordance with an IMF directive, TOR took over the importation of crude oil from GNPC. This move came without any capital injection in TOR. W.S. Parker had a plan, and he applied various strategies including hedging to get the refinery running

Mr. Parker changed the operating philosophy of the company quite considerably during his tenure. Technical experts were engaged during turnaround maintenance who brought discipline, quick turnaround results, and cost effectiveness in achieving the objectives instead of doing all the works in house. A practice which continues to yield results.





Determination

The plan to expand and modernize the refinery had been on the drawing board for years. It was under the leadership of W.S that the refinery from a simple topping unit with a capacity of 28,000bpsd was increased to its present capacity of 45,000bspd. W.S supervised the financing arrangement for the expansion and the construction of the Residue Fluid Catalytic Cracker (FCC) Unit making the refinery a secondary conversion plant.

Under his watch the refinery operated at 90% efficiency as at 1994, a feat we have struggled to maintain but are gradually working towards. This is the man we pay a tribute to today.

The Disciplinarian

W.S. Parker brought a new lease of life to TOR. Discipline was his hallmark. He rewarded those with creative ideas and innovation---those who thought outside the box and challenged the status quo.

Mr. Parker respected TIME as an important resource. Meetings were held on time. He believed in the principle of "Management by example". Although he lived in Accra, he got to the office sometimes before 7 a.m. W.S could call anytime for a meeting without notice. One had to be updated with the facts, in addition to being abreast with both local and international news around the world when meeting with

him. Loitering was forbidden anywhere in the refinery.

Change is a difficult thing for most people and as such some workers agitated. Consequently, junior staff went on strike for several weeks which led to their mass dismissal. All junior staff of TOR had to reapply for their jobs, a feat unheard of in TOR. This ended the rampant strikes in the Country which hitherto were associated with workers of TOR.

The then Minister for Fuel & Power, Mr. Ato Ahwoi, was so proud of this achievement that he is reported to have stated that "If I haven't done anything at all, I have been able to silence TOR workers".

Mr. Parker was a man of action which produced results. When he heard rumors that TOR personnel were taking bribes from transporters at the Loading Gantry, he immediately called an emergency meeting one morning with the transporters to verify the alleged corruption at the Loading Gantry. He asked the transporters whether monies were extorted from them. The transporters flatly denied by saying the monies were given out freely. Staff at the loading gantry were therefore rotated to ensure they all benefitted from the" free gifts"

W.S believed that if a thing was to be done, it should be done well. When there was any news item or article in the print or electronic media, he would invite all the media houses in Agera and Tema for a press briefing to correct any erroneous impression about TOR.

He was such a stickler for detail that letters written from his desk and signed would be left overnight and he would call for them the following morning to take a second look at them before sending them out.

Hardworking

A real workaholic. In fact you had to welcome work and put in all your efforts before you could cope with his pace. He was thorough in his dealings and worked to perfection.

Passionate

W.S was so passionate about the operations of the refinery. The flare meant the world to him because it signified the life of the processing plants. He would call at odd hours deep in the night to inquire about the state of the plants. Even in his retirement, he continued to follow events at TOR.

Welfare of staff

Under his leadership, W.S. Parker took historic steps to ensure that the welfare of staff came first. He often said the worst option for an employee was to retire without one's own accommodation, hence his introduction of a housing ownership scheme with HFC and also affordable housing project with Parakuo Estates which benefited most workers.

We will miss his wise counsel, respect for ideas, determination and humility.

To the Wife, children and family of the late W.S Parker we are grateful for sharing him with the Board, Management and staff of Tema Oil Refinery (TOR).

May His Soul Rest In Perfect Peace





TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR. WILLIAM SEKYI PARKER BY EBO SAM.

Paying tribute to W. S. Parker is a privilege

but also a painful assignment.

I have known 'Willie', as those who knew him best called him, as a teacher, my teacher, in the Great School, Achimota, where, in the previous year, he had served as the school prefect.

My memory of him as a "Junior Teacher"

teaching us Mathematics, was that of a

man who was supremely self-confident. A brilliant mathematician, he taught the subject as if it was the easiest, the most logical, the most commonsensical subject that ever was. He was so personally and so completely identified with the subject that he would often introduce a theorem with the words "WE mathematicians, have come to the conclusion that------!"

Unfortunately for us form one boys and girls, we soon "lost" him as he proceeded to the U.K. to study engineering. Our loss would later turnout to be Shell's and Ghana's gain.

Later, our paths would cross again to begin many years of friendship when, after graduation from Legon, I found myself joining the staff of Shell

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Shana, where Willie had long been stablished as "A STAR", if not "THE STAR," f the senior Ghanaian staff. n a period of over twenty years, that I was rivileged to work with him, Willie's eadership qualities- A first class ngineering brain, a hands-on leadership tyle, an uncompromising integrity, and ove for one's Nation saw him successfully ake on one senior position after another: lead, Engineering, Head, Operations, lead, Marketing and, finally, Chief xecutive and Board Chairman. In each ituation, he was the first Ghanaian and ully justified the confidence his superiors laced in him- More than that, he paved he way for those of us coming after him. o fully appreciate Willie's pioneering chievements, it would be necessary to ecall that this was a company in which, not so long before, Salesmen and even Departmental Secretaries were xpatriates! lis contemporaries included, at various

times, Emmanuel Agbettor, Ben Tagoe, Rubi Tamakloe, Charles Christian, Tom Insaidoo, J. B. Arthur, Fred Gadzekpo, Perfect Nutor, Atta-Woode, Joe Banson, most of whom have preceded him to the inevitable destination of all men, and younger ones like Jack Amissah, Eric Segbefia and myself.

Retiring from the long and distinguished service to Shell Ghana, his Nation gave him the opportunity to serve it as the head of our only Refinery at Tema. It was the final recognition of his love for Nation, for his technical and managerial competence and for his personal integrity.

Despite his strict sense of duty, Willie mixed easily with all of us, old and young, without distinction. He readily shared jokes, discussed the grave events of the day, and pronounced his views on the best way forward.

His was a leadership that clearly knew where it was going, and encouraged the

rest of his team to follow. No doubt, many such Ghanaians of whom the Nation can be justly proud have come and gone. They beat a new path or built on what had been bequeathed to them. They knew where they were taking the ship, and they directed their teams to see the vision they had. They exhibited leadership. Above all, they exhibited guiet Nationalism and scrupulously eschewed selfishness. Their Nation will continue to be grateful for their selflessness. As the years progressed and our numbers (Retirees) began to dwindle, Willie would call me (when he heard of any one of our colleagues passing on), and would gravely say, "Ogyam, yere sa oo." (Meaning, my friend, my brother, our numbers are steadily dwindling!) That was a call for reflection. A call to think about the real purpose of life; The opportunities given us by our Nation

and our fidelity in serving it.

Today, Willie is gone, and with him the life that was premised on doing one's best and offering only the best for one's Nation; A life of brilliance, but which also understood the true meaning of service. A life that took no advantage of position for personal interest.

If Willie's life teaches today's generation of business leaders anything at all, it teaches them to see the greater glory that is possible for Ghana----when truth and selflessness prevail over everything else.

The cemetery, we are told, is "Full of the wisdom that the living desperately need". Meaning, those who have gone before, are already familiar with our problems and challenges and have the advantage of the full knowledge of the choices before us and their consequences for us as individuals as well as a Nation. We will do well to study them, even if we can no longer directly consult them.

Let us, whenever we come to the crossroads, first reflect on, and be guided by, the choices they made, and the reasons they gave, before we rush to take our own decisions and make our (avoidable) mistakes.

May God grant Willie, "Ogyam", teacher, boss, friend, Eternal Rest.

May his vision and ideas of Service help future generations of Executives when faced with the choice between Service and Self.

And may the Lord console and protect his dear wife, Auntie Esther, the children and the entire family at this time of your grief.

Amen.



TRIBUTE FROM **CEPSA MADRID** SPAIN

e deeply regret to hear of the passing away of Mr. W.S. Parker who was the Chief Executive of Tema Oil Refinery (TOR) for many years.

CEPSA commenced business with TOR in the 1990s through a tendering process, consequently establishing a mutually rewarding business relationship with TOR through the support of Mr. Parker. He realized the potential and capacity that CEPSA had and therefore explored an effective and efficient linkage with a reliable refinery that TOR could fall on in period of crises, hence our refinery at Tenerife located 8 days voyage time away from Tema. Due to his excellent business linkage with CEPSA a number of engineers from TOR were trained at CEPSA's refinery in Gibraltar.

We still remember a lot of anecdotes during his visits to Spain, like when he

tried to visit Gibraltar and practically couldn't make a re-entry into Spain because of his single entry visa which we managed to sort out at the border.

We have shared his love and in-depth knowledge of the oil industry for the things well done specially in his job, for his family, for his friends and even to share with them a glass of whisky.

Your Spanish friends will dearly miss you especially when they travel again to Ghana.

We will like to extend our deepest condolences to his bereaved wife, children, grandchildren and the entire family.

May God grant Mr. Parker eternal rest.

CEPSA MADRID, SPAIN

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM SEKYI PARKER FROM THE OLD ACHIMOTAN ASSOCIATION 1946-1949 YEAR GROUP

t was with deep shock and sorrow that we received the news of Willie Parker's passing.

Willie had been Chairman and Convener of the OAA'46 Year Group since 1977. He had served diligently with distinction in his role over all these years.

William Sekyi Parker entered Achimota School in 1946. This was the largest intake of the school after World War II. This intake stream had four (4) classes. Willie was in the Science class of 4D and 5D in 1948 and 1949 respectively. He was an outstanding student.

After our Cambridge O-level examination, he was one of the few who was chosen to proceed for the A-level course in Physical Science. After successfully passing the 'A' levels, Shell Company of Ghana, in a groundbreaking move, awarded scholarships to three outstanding students to go to the United Kingdom to pursue a University Degree course in Engineering Science. They were Akora Parker, Akora Aidam and Akora Quansah, all of Blessed Memory. W.S. acquitted himself with distinction, and returned home to contribute his quota to nation building in the nascent nation Ghana. His achievements in the Engineering field received national acclaim in time, and he was appointed

as Chancellor of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) then University of Science and Technology (UST). We, as members of his year group, were justifiably proud of his achievements.

As President of the OAA'49 year group, he was an inspiring leader. He convened and attended a meeting of the group on August 19th 2015. At dawn on 24th August 2015, Akora Parker died peacefully in his sleep at home.

We cherish his memory. Willie, Rest in Perfect Peace.



TRIBUTE TO THE LATE W. S. PARKER FORMER MD OF SHELL GHANA AND FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF TEMA OIL REFINERY BY YAW AGYEMANG-DUAH

I met the late Mr. W. S. Parker for the first time in the mid-eighties when I was a staff of the Ghana Investments Centre. After about eight years working with the Centre, I had made a firm decision to move into the Petroleum industry, and had begun to explore opportunities towards that end. Considering my areas of interest in the industry at the time, I felt Shell Ghana was the company that would offer me the best opportunities, and with that in mind, something pushed me to seek direct discussions with the Managing Director of Shell, who I found out to be one Mr. W. S. Parker. He was described by those I spoke to as a very "tough and difficult" Managing Director, and almost every one of them advised me to choose a better option than to seek a direct encounter with W.S. Parker. Indeed, no one believed that Mr. Parker would agree to meet directly with me to discuss my desire to work with his company in my area of interest.

I ignored their advice and decided to make the effort to meet him to discuss my interest first before writing to apply, if necessary. I am so glad I did! When I called the Shell Head Office to seek an appointment to see the MD, the first and obvious question I was asked was "What is it about?" And when I responded that I wanted to discuss employment opportunities within Shell, the response from the Secretary was, "then it is rather HR you should be talking to and not the MD. I will make an appointment for you to see the Head of HR".

But I insisted and stressed on the need for me to meet the MD himself. After a couple of attempts, the very capable and caring Secretary managed to secure an appointment for me. The resulting encounter with W.S. Parker marked the beginning of the most valuable mentorship for me, as well as a long and enduring friendship that has lasted until this day. Today, my heart is broken! I have lost one of my most valuable mentors, and I have lost a great friend.

So on that day I walked from the Ministries to Shell Head Office to meet with Mr. W. S. Parker, the "tough and difficult MD" of Shell, for the first time. When I entered his office and greeted him, he welcomed me very warmly, and to my pleasant surprise, he offered me a seat. He followed up immediately with the statement "yes young man, my Secretary tells me you want to discuss employment opportunities at Shell with me and nobody else"; and then the question, "what is it about?" I gathered some courage and responded that I wanted employment at Shell in the Corporate Planning Department. I explained that because planning departments usually reported to the MD, I felt I needed to speak with no one else but him, as he alone would really understand my ambitions.



Mr. Parker gazed at me for a long time, and I quote his ensuing remark: "Young man, you must be very courageous to come to my office to tell me what I should employ you to do at Shell". He followed up with a series of questions. "Do you know what we do here? Do you know how Shell is organized? Has Shell advertised for a job opening in your area of interest?" I looked at his face quietly and thought I had really upset him. On the contrary, my answers to his questions opened the opportunity for us to engage in very wide-ranging discussions within the downstream sector of the Petroleum Industry of Ghana. As I got to know later, he was the quintessence of the masters of the industry in Ghana and West Africa, if not the whole of Africa. at the time. As the discussions ensued, I began to feel that he was getting more and more interested in me, and was leaning towards the idea of giving me a chance to work with him.

He ended our discussions by saying this to me: "Young man I want to give you a chance, but I don't have a job in Corporate Planning. However, I will consider a place in Treasury for you to develop your

career. If that interests you, I will let you see the heads of the department of Treasury and of HR". He was going to call his Secretary when I interjected to thank him, but added apologetically that my interest was not in Treasury. He was very surprised, and that's when he told me this: "Unfortunately, young man, I cannot help you but I wish you well in all your efforts. I will keep you in my mind, and will follow your progress and your career with interest. Do keep in touch". Since then, and to my most pleasant surprise, Mr. Parker has been supportive throughout my career. Mr. Parker never waited for me to call him; rather he would call me. That, indeed, is the W.S. Parker I know.

When I moved to GNPC, our paths crossed professionally as Mr. Parker became the CEO of Tema Oil Refinery (TOR), thus bringing us even closer together. Those days, the two organizations worked so closely with each other to the extent that,

it was as if some of the staff were employees of both organizations. And at any time we met he would share his Shell experiences with me and give me encouragement to spend the rest of my professional public life in the petroleum industry.

Mr. Parker's mentorship to me and friendship continued even more strongly when I moved to GOIL. He wanted me to be a beneficiary of all the experiences he had had in the petroleum industry to enable me succeed at GOIL.

Indeed, as the first Chairman of the Association of Oil Marketing Companies (AOMCs), I benefited tremendously from his early industry experiences through advice and encouragement. He encouraged me to give my full support to OMCs idea of forming and registering the AOMC organization though he was not a member then, especially in anticipation



of the imminent deregulation of the industry. It was not a surprise that one of his ex-Shell staff played such a leading role in the formation and registration of the association and became the first Industry Coordinator, as the CEO of the AOMCs was called at the time.

The creation of the independent, wholly Ghanaian-owned Oil Marketing Companies, starting from the Inter Petroleum Resources (IPR) and the others that followed them, was the direct result of the independence Mr. Parker granted to such new, small, indigenous and independent companies. With that, they were able to lift products directly instead of depending on the major OMCs. This is just one example of the major contributions that Mr. Parker has made towards the development of the downstream Petroleum industry in Ghana.

A few days before he passed away, Mr. Parker called me to ask when I would be coming to the house for us to have another of our chats. I was travelling out of Accra at the time, so I promised him a visit upon my return. I was driving by his house after my return to Accra to attend a meeting at East Legon, when I saw a banner announcing his passing. With his demise, the petroleum industry in Ghana has lost a giant. He was a strong pillar of the industry.

May the Soul of W.S. Parker Rest In Perfect Peace.

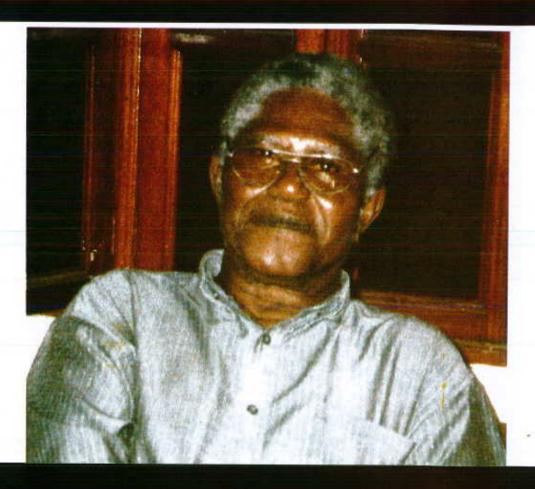
Yaw Agyemang-Duah is a former staff of Ghana Investments Center and GNPC, a former Managing Director of GOIL, and the first Chairman of AOMCs.



TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR WILLIAM SEKYI PARKER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF TEMA OIL REFINERY (TOR) LIMITED, OCTOBER 1988 TO JUNE 2000 By: Oheneba Lovelace Prempeh. FCA Otumfuo's Akomforehene

he unexpected sad news of the peaceful death of the late Mr. William Sekyi Parker, on Monday 24th August 2015, was passed on to me through a former colleague, Mr Emmanuel Quartey, who was the Production, Planning and Control Manager during W.S. Parker's tenure at TOR. Emmanuel's SMS message read as follows:

"OBITUARY: Mr William Sekyi Parker, ex Managing Director of TOR died yesterday aged 84. A rare executive breed, He was a class act above those before and after him in the TOR MD's office. He earned my deep respect as an Executive who



understood the dynamics of the petroleum market. May the good Lord keep and protect him."

This was an apt epitaph of Willie Parker, as he was affectionately called, and Emmanuel Quartey knew that I shared similar sentiments of our late Boss. It is an incontrovertible fact that W.S. Parker was a colossus at TOR during his 12 year tenure of the Chief Executive's office from October 1988 to June 2000.

Not only was W.S. Parker an outstanding CEO of TOR, a public sector oil company, but prior to his stint at TOR, he was a celebrated CEO of Shell Ghana Limited, a highly respected private sector oil company. He worked for Shell International for 35 years, fifteen years of which were under his watch as Managing Director of Shell Ghana Limited. His 35 years at Shell International, with postings in England and Nigeria enabled him to acquire vast knowledge and experience in oil management.

W.S. Parker was one of Ghana's most respected experts in the Oil and Gas Industry. Indeed, he was the doyen of Ghana's downstream petroleum industry. As a young engineer at Shell, he was a member of the special team of experts who supervised the offloading of the first cargo of crude oil from Tema Harbour to the crude oil tanks in the "newly" commissioned "GHAIP" Refinery in August 1963.

One of his major achievements at Shell was the 1987 merger between Shell Ghana Limited and Texaco Ghana Limited which propelled Shell to the leadership position of Ghana's downstream petroleum industry and ended Texaco's oil trading activities in Ghana.

Let me now list a few of W.S. Parker's achievements at TOR:

1. It was W.S. Parker who increased

the Refinery's crude oil processing capacity by 60%, i.e. from a daily processing of 28,000 barrels per stream day to 45,000 barrels per stream day (an annual processing of 1.25 million tons to 2 million tons), following the completion of the first phase of the Refinery's expansion project in 1998.

2. It was W.S. Parker who, on 25th February 1999, concluded TOR's long standing project finance negotiations with Samsung Corporation, at Seoul, the capital of South Korea, for the financing, procurement and installation of the USD 300 million Residual Fluid Catalytic Cracker Plant (RFCC) at TOR. The installation of the RFCC plant enabled the Refinery to convert the 30% low value.



Jeri

residual fuel oil from each processing cycle of the crude distillation unit (CDU) into high value finished products, gasoline (ie. petrol) and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). The installation of the RFCC plant transformed TOR from a simple Hydroskimming Refinery to a modern refinery complex comprising:

- (a) a crude distillation unit (CDU)
- (b) a premium former for converting virgin naphtha into gasoline and
- (c) an RFCC plant.
- 3. It was W.S. Parker who significantly increased the fuel storage capacity of the Refinery by building new state of the art storage tanks for crude oil, LPG and Jet Fuel. In order to meet the country's increased demand for LPG and jet fuel, he successfully negotiated a deal with the International Engineering Company Motherwell Bridge Limited of

Scotland, under which the latter built 3 new 2,500m³ LPG spherical tanks and 3 new Aviation Turbine Kerosene (ATK) tanks at TOR.

- 4. It was W.S. Parker who initiated and implemented a Staff house ownership scheme at TOR to enable each member of staff to own his or her own house. Well over 200 members of staff benefited from the scheme. Firstly, he weaned staff then occupying company flats and houses (from which they would have been evicted on their retirement) away from their rented "comfort zones" by selling to them such company property. Secondly, he managed to procure large stretches of land in Tema and adjoining areas and commenced the construction of various types of staff owned houses. For the financing of the
- staff house ownership project, he structured a staff mortgage finance deal with Home Finance Company Limited, then headed by Mrs. Stephanie Ansah. Like most of my colleagues at TOR I am a beneficiary of W.S. Parker's staff house ownership scheme for which we should be eternally grateful.
- 5. It was W.S. Parker who completed TOR's eight storey Administration Tower which still dominates Tema's skyline. The construction of the Administration Block began with Parker's predecessor, the late Mr A.Q. Kyiamah, who built the foundation up to the 4th floor. The remaining four floors were completed by W.S. Parker.
- 6. It was W.S. Parker who commenced the outsourcing of TOR's non-core activities like: onsite motor vehicle



maintenance, onsite tank repairs, onsite masonry activities etc. The positive effect of the outsourcing policy was to enable the Company to concentrate on its core business of crude oil refining. The policy effectively rationalised TOR's staff structure thus leading to a significant reduction in staff payroll costs. In order to ameliorate the plight of the redundant staff arising from the rationalisation exercise, he persuaded them to be selfemployed and assisted them to form limited liability companies in their areas of expertise. He subsequently awarded them appropriate contracts at TOR as and when necessary. This was a win-win situation for the Refinery and the redundant staff.

7. It was W.S. Parker who made it commercially viable for the newly incorporated Ghanaian or local Oil Marketing Companies like

Allied Oil, Star Oil, Glory Oil, Petrol Ghana, Tropic Oil, Sonnidom Energy, Havila Oil and others to commence oil trading in the downstream petroleum industry, hitherto monopolised by the following multinational oil marketing companies: Shell, Texaco, Elf, Total, Mobil, AGIP and British Petroleum (BP). Although the Energy Commission Act of 1997 (Act 541) opened up the downstream petroleum industry to local participation, the newly incorporated local companies were not financially strong to lift fuel from TOR. They could not easily obtain the requisite Banking facilities to commence trading because of stringent Bankers' terms and conditions of business. However, in his determination to break the expatriate stranglehold of the industry,

- W.S. Parker extended unsecured trade credit facilities to the local oil marketing companies to enable them to commence fuel liftings from the loading gantries at TOR.
- 8. It was during W.S. Parker's tenure of office that, in 1991, TOR's previously baptised name of Ghanaian Italian Petroleum Company (GHAIP) Limited was changed to Tema Oil Refinery (TOR) Limited. This was done to reflect the city where the Refinery was geographically located rather than its historical association with Italy.
- 9. It was during Willie Parker's tenure of office, that the Government of Ghana, in September 1996 converted TOR from a Tolling Refinery processing third party crude oil for a tolling fee, to a fully-

fledged Oil Trading Company importing crude oil feedstock on its own account, refining it and marketing the finished products. Unfortunately, however, TOR was not recapitalized nor sufficiently funded by Government to undertake the importation of crude oil for refining, storage and marketing of the finished products. For various reasons the major local banks were unable to offer Letters of Credit facilities to TOR to commence the importation of crude oil. However, by sheer force of his personality, integrity and experience in oil management, W.S. Parker was able to structure circa USD 40 million pre-export trade finance deal with a consortium of International Bankers and oil suppliers made up of BNP Paribas, Standard Chartered Bank PLC and Vitol SA (an international oil trader). It was this "seed money" which enabled

TOR to import its first cargo of crude oil as an independent oil trader in 1996.

How and why did W.S. Parker come to TOR after retiring from a glittering career at Shell?

It was Honourable Ato Ahwoi, then PNDC Secretary for Fuel and Power who brought W.S. Parker to TOR in May 1988. Willie Parker had just retired from Shell and Ato managed to persuade him to bring his enormous private sector expertise to "GHAIP" which was then undergoing a major restructuring phase under the Country's Economic Recovery Programme (ERP). W.S. Parker accepted to undertake this national service. Firstly, he joined "GHAIP" as the Non-Executive Chairman of its revised Board while Mr A.Q. Kyiamah remained the Managing Director. The 1988 TOR Board under Parker's Chairmanship included such stalwarts as Messrs Tsatsu Tsikata (CEO of GNPC),

the late Henry Dei (Director General of SSNIT), the late Dr. Abu Ahmed (Managing Director of the defunct Bank for Housing and Construction), the late Josiah Coffie (Managing Director of Shell), Joe Klemesu (the geophysicist at the Ministry of Energy) and Ms Patience King (Head of Foreign Operations of Bank of Ghana).

In October 1988 W.S. Parker was confirmed the Chief Executive Officer of TOR. Subsequently, he relinquished the non-executive chairmanship of the TOR Board to Mr Osei Opoku, then Managing Director of Enterprise Insurance Company Limited. Mr A.Q. Kyiamah, the predecessor of W.S. Parker was reassigned a new appointment at the Ministry of Energy.

One of Willie Parker's early moves to imprint his executive authority on the Management and Staff of TOR was to institute compulsory fortnightly management meetings. He was a



brilliant Engineer. He obtained First Class Honours in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Loughborough, U.K. His stated hobbies were "Walking and Mathematics". He once taught mathematics at Achimota, his old school where he rose to be senior prefect in his student days. The fortnightly Management meetings enabled W.S. Parker to assess not only the state of the "Refinery Plant" but also the calibre and performance of his management team. He did not suffer fools gladly and abhorred mediocrity masquerading as expertise. This revelation put every manager on his toes. Meetings commenced at 10am. Lateness was not encouraged.

There he sat, at the head of the long Boardroom table, rather like the Greek Philosopher Aristotle at his Lyceum with his students. He would, call on each of the following Departmental Heads to give a presentation, technical and otherwise, of his Department's activities

over the previous fortnight:

- Production
- Production Planning and Control
- * Technical
- Maintenance
- Safety and security
- · Commercial
- Finance and Accounts
- Administration
- Internal Audit

His two Deputy Managing Directors, i.e. DMD Operations (Dr. Kwesi Aidoo) and DMD Finance and Administration (Lovelace Prempeh) were not spared the ordeal. They had to give an overview of the state of the Refinery, its Finances and Accounts. He would conclude the meeting with the CEO's "sermon", a masterly rendition of not only the state of TOR but indeed, the major events of the Country's downstream petroleum industry.

Indeed, as my former colleague Emmanuel Quartey rightly observed in his "Obituary", Willie Parker was "a rare executive breed, a class act above those before and after him in the TOR Managing Director's office..." In a sad moment like this I can only soliloquize like Macbeth (in Shakespeare's "Macbeth") when his wife's death was announced to him.

"Life is but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage and then is heard no more."

Yes, Willie Parker loomed large on the stage of Ghana's downstream oil industry. Yes, he will be heard no more. However, his name will remain indelible in the future history books of Ghana's Oil and Gas Industry.

To his dear wife Esther, his children Thomas, Louisa, Wilhelmina and Solomon, may God grant them strength and fortitude in their period of mournful sorrow.

May he rest in perfect peace.

























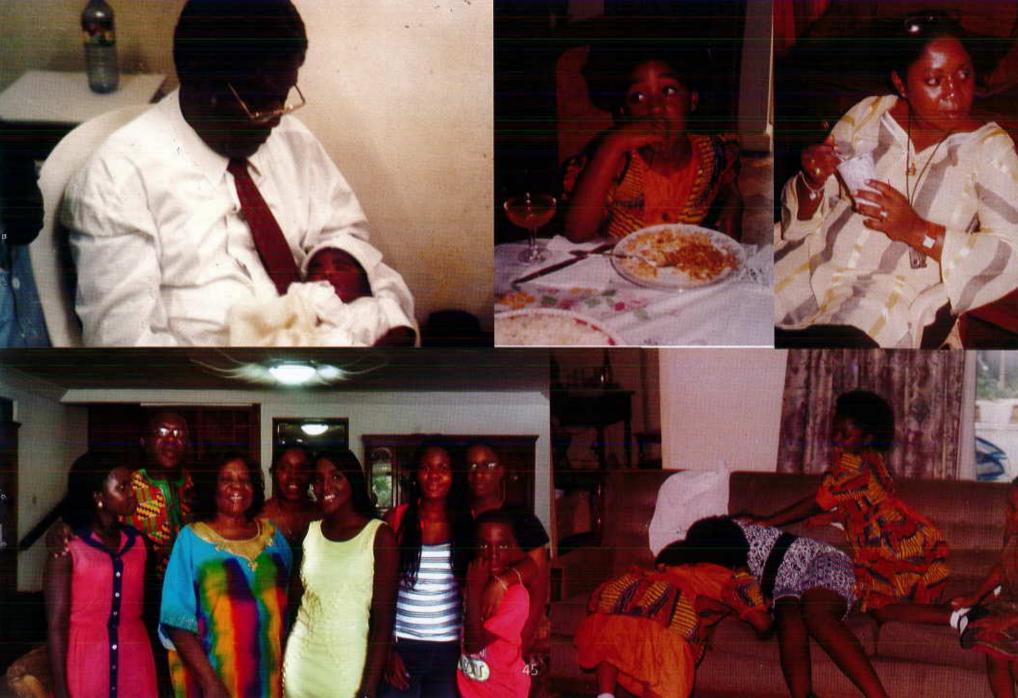


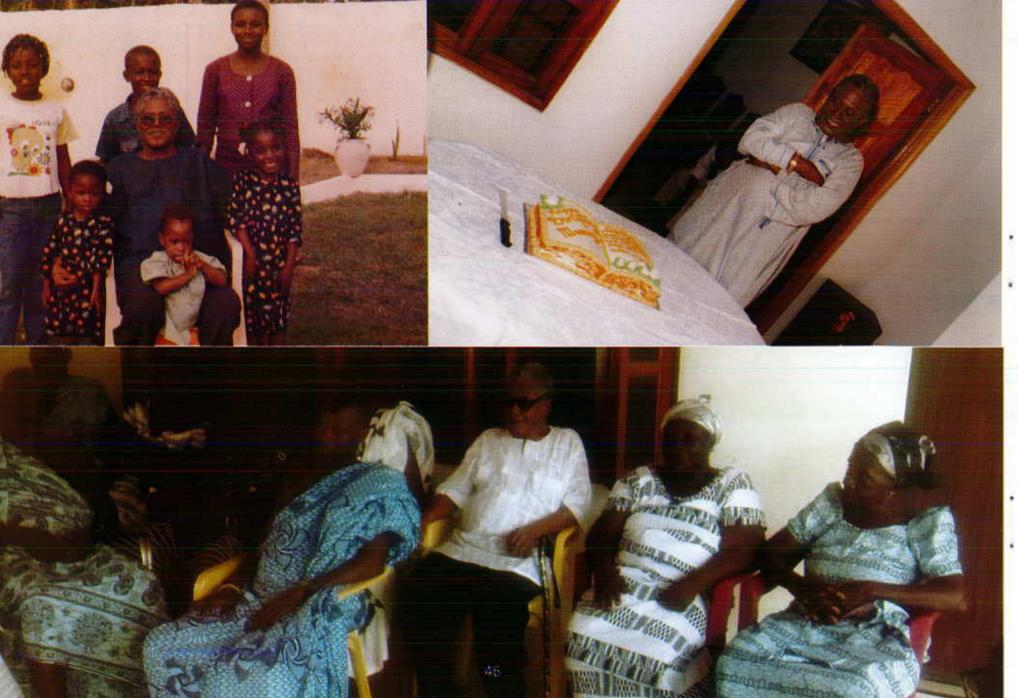








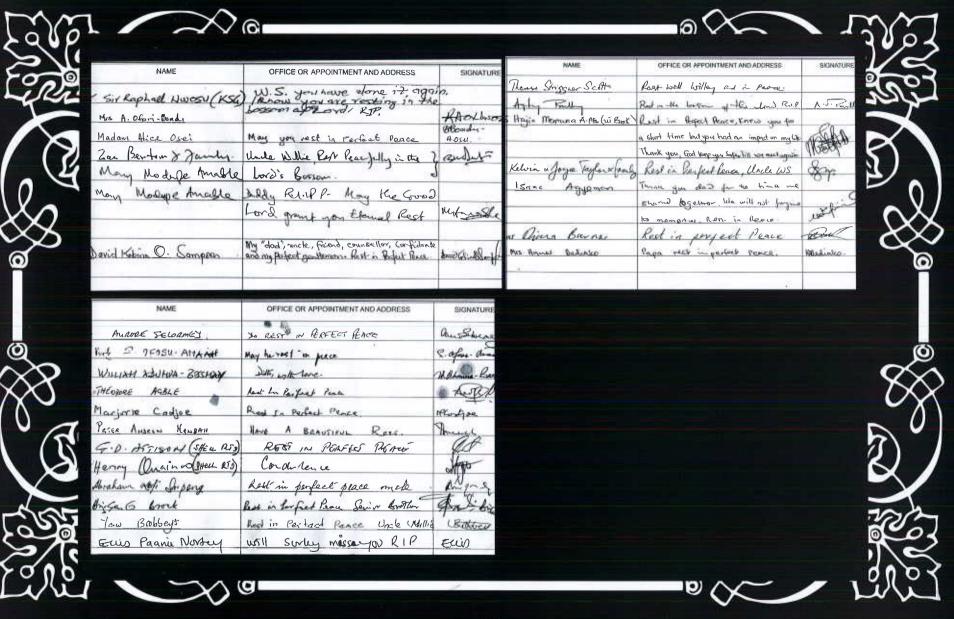


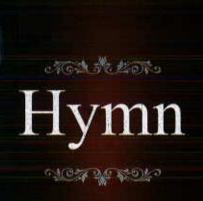


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- Through all the changing scenes of life, In trouble and in joy,
 The praises of my God shall still
 My heart and tongue employ.
- Of His deliverance I will boast,
 Till all that are distressed
 From my example comfort take,
 And charm their griefs to rest.
- O magnify the Lord with me, With me exalt His name;
 When in distress to Him I called, He to my rescue came.
- The hosts of God encamp around The dwellings of the just;

 Deliverance He affords to all

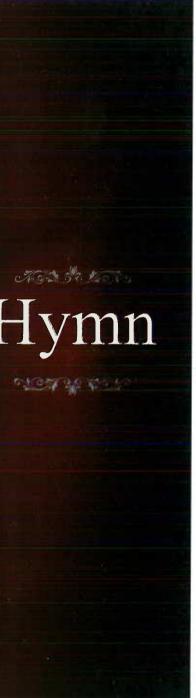
 Who on His succour trust.
- O make but trial of His love;
 Experience will decide
 How blest they are, and only they,
 Who in His truth confide.
- Fear Him, ye saints, and you will then Have nothing else to fear;
 Make you His service your delight He'll make your wants His care.

M.H.B. 828

- 1. Ten Thousand times ten thousand, In sparkling raiment bright, The armies of the ransomed saints Through up the steeps of light; 'Tis finished, all is finished, Their fight with death and sin: Fling open wide the golden gates, And let the victors in.
- 2. What rush of hallelujahs
 Fills all the earth and sky!
 What ringing of a thousand harps
 Bespeaks the triumph nigh!
 O day for which creation
 And all its tribes were made!
 O joy, for all its former woes
 A thousand-fold repaid!
- 3. O then what raptured greetings
 On Canaans's happy shore,
 What knotting severed friendships up
 Where partings are no more!
 Then eyes with joy shall sparkle
 That brimmed with tears of late;
 Orphans no longer fatherless,
 Nor widows desolate.
- 4. Bring near Thy great salvation,
 Thou Lamb for sinners slain;
 Fill up the roll if Thine elect,
 Then take Thy power and reign;
 Appear, Desire of nations
 Thine exiles long for home;
 Show in the heaven Thy promised sign;
 Thou Prince and Saviour, come. Amen:

M.H.B.896

- Now praise we great and famous men, The fathers, named in story;
 And praise the Lord who now as then Reveals in man His glory.
- Praise we the wise and brave and strong,
 Who graced their generation,
 Who helped the right, and fought the wrong,
 And made our folk a nation.
- 3. Praise we the great of heart and mind; The singers sweetly gifted, Whose music like a mighty wind The souls of men uplifted.
- 4. Praise we the peaceful men of skill Who builded homes of beauty, And, rich in art, made richer still The brotherhood of duty.
- 5. Praise we the glorious names we know; And they whose names have perished, Lost in the haze of long ago In silent love be cherished
- 6: In peace their sacred ashes rest, Fulfilled their day's endeavor; They blest the earth, and they are blest Of God and man, forever.
- So praise we great and famous men, The fathers, named in story;
 And praise the Lord who now as then Reveals in man His glory.



- 1. Head of Thy church triumphant, We joyfully adore Thee, Till Thou appear, Thy members here Shall sing like those in glory. We lift our hearts and voices With blest anticipation, And cry aloud, And give to God The praise of our salvation.
- 2. The name we still acknowledge That burst our bonds in sunder, And loudly sing Our conquering King, In songs of joy and wonder. In every day's deliverance Our Jesus we discover; 'Tis He, 'tis He That smote the sea, And led us safely over!
- 3. While in affliction's furnace, And passing through the fire, Thy love we praise, Which knows our days And ever brings us nigher. We clap our hands exulting In Thine almighty favour; The love divine Which made us Thine

Shall keep us Thine forever.

4. By faith we see the glory
To which Thou shalt restore us;
The Cross despise
For that high prize
Which Thou hast set before us.
And if Thou count us worth,
We each, as dying Stephen,
Shall see Thee stand
At God's right hand
To take us up to heaven.

M.H.B.615

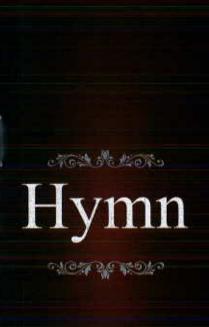
- 1. Guide me, O Thou great
 Jehovah,
 Pilgrim through this barren land;
 I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
 Hold me with Thy powerful
 hand:
 Bread of heaven!
 Feed me now and evermore.
- 2. Open Thou the crystal fountain,
 Whence the healing stream shall flow;
 Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
 Lead me all my journey through:
 Strong Deliverer!

Be Thou still my help and shield.

3.
When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of deaths, and hell's

CAN 324

- 1. Da yie dofo fonafo, W'edwuma abo adze; Ahomgye pa siar mbordo Na dɛw mapa nye wodze. Da yie, da yie Nyame Mfa w'nsie Adzesaa ahyɛ sum, da yie!
- 2. Nyinsu bonsam' kwantunyi Hom fi yaw na suro nsa, Hom mbrɛ s? na mbusu nnyi, W'akwantu ber no asa. Da yie, da yie, Nyame mfa w'nsie, Adzesaa ahyɛ sum, da yie!
- 3. Twer Jesu N'abaw mu komm, Nyame do nkata wo do; Sun W'Agyenkwa No bom Sonn, Mbre bon biara nnkehaw wo. Da yie, da yie, Nyame mfa w'nsie, Yebehyiam afeboo, da yie!



- Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy,
 The praises of my God shall still My heart and tongue employ.
- 2. Of His deliverance I will boast, Till all that are distressed From my example comfort take, And charm their griefs to rest.
- 3. O magnify the Lord with me, With me exalt His name; When in distress to Him I called, He to my rescue came.
- 4. The hosts of God encamp around The dwellings of the just; Deliverance He affords to all Who on His succour trust.
- O make but trial of His love;
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To which Thou shalt restore us;
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